

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Commission Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support for SBC Ameritech's entry into Michigan's long distance market.

As the Executive Director of the American Arab Chamber of Commerce, serving 1,100 membership businesses in the Metropolitan Detroit areas, I am aware of the importance and effects of competition in the marketplace. In the past decade, the telecommunications industry has experienced phenomenal growth that multiplied the number of choices of service providers for business and residential consumers. The benefit of competition has been realized by my membership to some extent and for that I am thankful. However, I question why regulation in this state continues to limit the services that can be offered by SBC Ameritech.

As I see it, SBC Ameritech is one to the most established telecommunication provider in the state employing over 16,000 workers in Michigan alone. It is an organization that businesses that the Chamber represent trust and depend on, even through the most difficult of economic times. In light of these truths, it seems unreasonable and contradictory to recent legislative efforts that you are excluded from the telecommunication market as a full service provider.

The American Arab Chamber of Commerce stands in support of your entry into Michigan's long distance market. We would appreciate the opportunity to utilize SBC Ameritech as a full service provider. Moreover, we are convinced that the market needs SBC as true competitor in order to maximize the benefit of competitions to businesses and all consumers in this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Beydoun", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nasser Beydoun  
Executive Director